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## Using Basic Tools

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Simple Home Repairs

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# simple home repairs

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## USING BASIC TOOLS

### HAMMER

A medium weight (12-13 ounce) claw hammer is good for general purposes.

- Hold a hammer near the end of the handle for more hitting power. To start a nail, hold it in place and tap it gently a few times until it is firmly set. Hit it straight in. (Fig. 1)
- To avoid hammer marks on the wood, use a nail set (Fig. 2) or another nail to drive a nail the last one-eighth inch into the wood.
- To remove a nail use claw end of hammer. Place a small block of wood under the head of the hammer to avoid marking the wood. (Fig. 3)

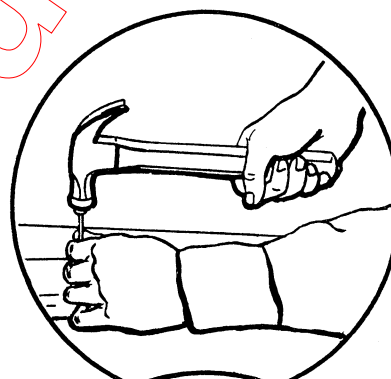


Fig. 1

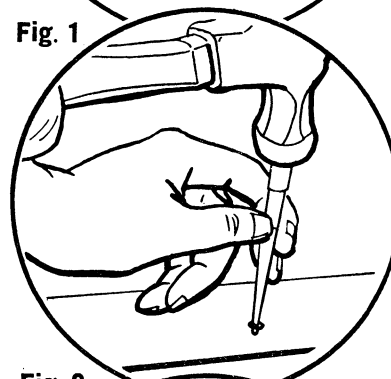


Fig. 2

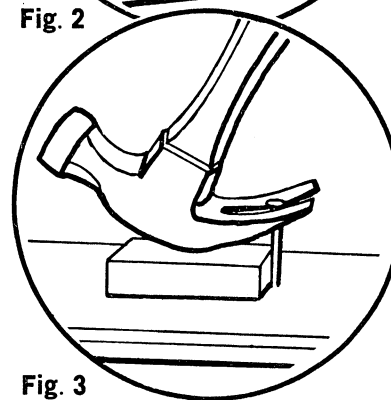


Fig. 3

### SCREWDRIVER

You need two types of screwdrivers for household repairs:

**Straight blade** (Fig. 4), and **Phillips** (Fig. 5). Both come in various sizes. The blade of the screwdriver should fit the slot in the screw. (Fig. 6)

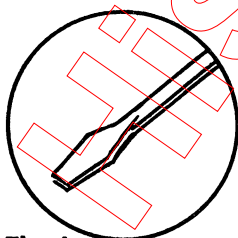


Fig. 4

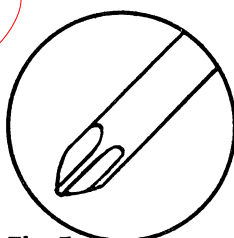


Fig. 5

- When using the screwdriver, push against the head of the screw as you turn it. (Fig. 7)
- It's easier to put a screw into wood if you make a hole first with a nail or drill. (Fig. 8) Rub wax or soap on the screw threads to make it go in easier.

## PLIERS

A **slip joint pliers** can be used for many jobs around the house. (Fig. 9)

- Use pliers to hold a nut while you turn a bolt with a screwdriver. (Fig. 10)
- Use it to remove nails or brads. Pull the nail out at the same angle it was driven in. Use small blocks under the pliers if you need leverage. (Fig. 11)
- Use it to bend or cut wire or to straighten a bent nail. (Fig. 12)
- Use it to turn nuts. Wrap tape or cloth around the nut to avoid scratching it. (Fig. 13)

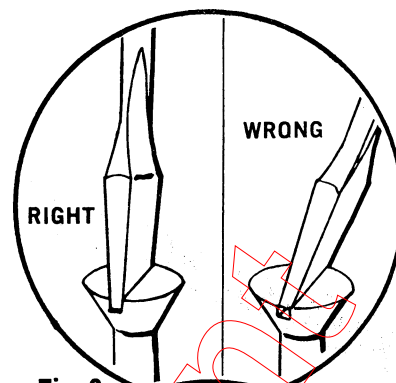


Fig. 6

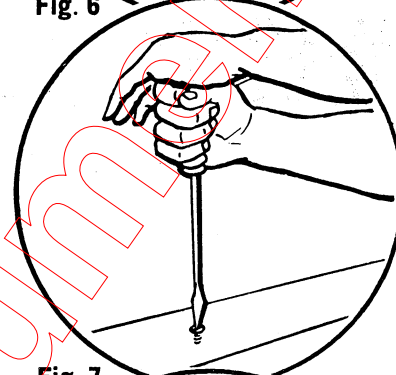


Fig. 7

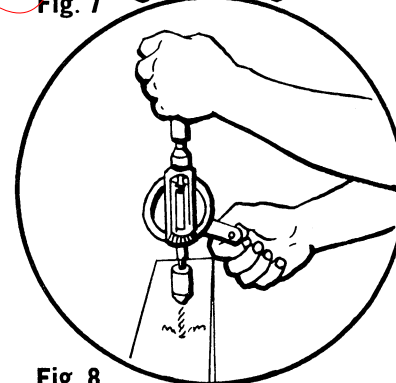


Fig. 8

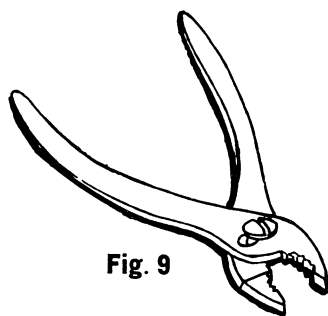


Fig. 9

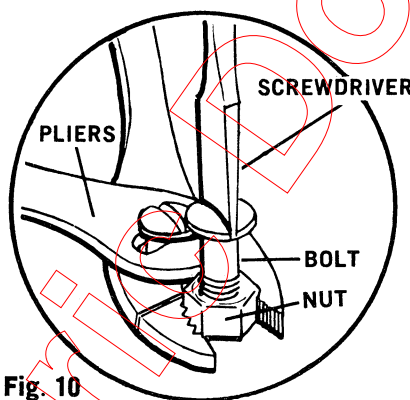


Fig. 10

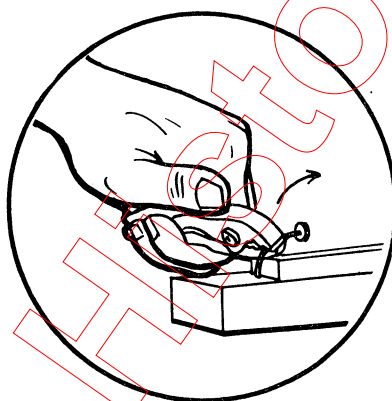


Fig. 11

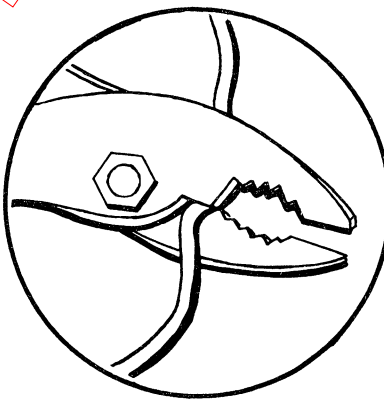


Fig. 12

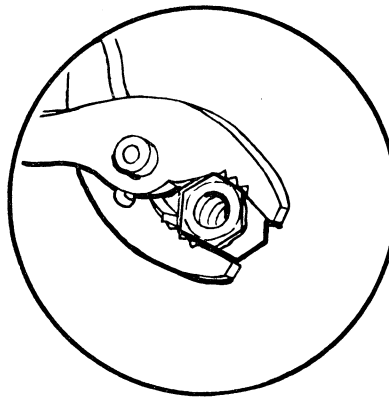


Fig. 13